

**Defense Witness: Alexei Romanov**

My name is **Alexei**  **Romanov,** and I was born on August 12, 1904 in Russia. I am the youngest of five children and the only son born to my parents Czar [Nicholas II](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nicholas_II) and Czarina Alexandra. My older sisters are the Grand Duchesses [Olga](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grand_Duchess_Olga_Nikolaevna_of_Russia), [Tatiana](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grand_Duchess_Tatiana_Nikolaevna_of_Russia), [Maria](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grand_Duchess_Maria_Nikolaevna_of_Russia_%281899%E2%80%931918%29) and [Anastasia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grand_Duchess_Anastasia_Nikolaevna_of_Russia). I am doted on by my parents and sisters. My entire life has been dominated by the fact that I was born with a genetic blood disorder called hemophilia. This is a complete drag. What it means is that if I ever received a bruise, contusion, or god forbid a cut, my blood will not clot properly, leaving me very ill and very often bed-ridden. This is a disease that is very possibly deadly. Undoubtedly it will likely kill me. Certainly the fact that I am still alive and relatively healthy and happy is due to the loving care of my father. I’m telling you, the lengths that guy goes to keep me healthy, happy and alive are simply unbelievable. For instance, at one point he had two sailors from the Russian Navy follow me around 24-7 to make sure that no harm came to me. He also employed a religious healer/medicine man named Rasputin. A great guy, who really helped me stay healthy. My Dad is so awesome, and loves me so much, I can hardly believe it. Only a great guy would go to such lengths to take care of his ill son, especially when he has so much other stuff to worry about.

https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/images/cleardot.gifLet me tell you about my father. Even though some claim my dad is an elitist who prospers with unimaginable wealth, while the majority of people are concerned about whether they will have enough food to make it through the winter, I would argue those people simply don’t know the man nor have taken the time to learn about who he really is. For instance, he believes strongly in the idea of equality, and he has taught me to believe the same. One example I can give you is from our time together leading the troops in World War I. I didn’t see the Kaiser, or the King of England out there on the battle fields leading their men in to battle. My dad felt it important to be out there among his men as they fought the enemy. We also felt it important to live the same as soldiers. One time I remember, while near the front, I remember refusing to eat a gourmet meal that was specially prepared for me because it was not what the soldiers ate. I instead had the black bread that everybody else ate.

My dad has tremendous faith in God, he is a very religious individual. He is a Christian who practices the Russian Orthodox faith.  My dad understood, at all times, that as Czar, he was God’s servant here on earth. He knew and understood what an awesome responsibility this was, and he did not take it lightly. That's why we had so many servants and people to care for us.  We were the closest thing to God! People honored God by honoring us with their service, gifts, and in some cases their lives. As a servant to God, everything dad did, and every decision he made was with an understanding that it was his role and destiny to carry out God’s plan here on earth. This is why he was so firm and unwavering in answering difficult questions that faced the country. This is also why he believed so strongly in the principle of autocracy, it was his responsibility and no one else’s. He stood firmly for that which seemed to him necessary for the good of the country. I would bet that one day in the future the Russian Orthodox Church will make dad into a saint

     My father is amazing to me, because, of all the kings and rulers that ever lived, his character is the closest to the ideal of a "great king." He is not only a ruler, but as Czar he lived out the soul of “Holy Russia” in his personal life. He is Christian, he is moral, he is consistent, and he is gentle. In an age when kings are becoming remote from their people, mere figureheads, somewhere safe in a palace, my dad wanted to personally lead his troops. The old ideal of a king, from long ago, was not of a wealthy aristocrat, but of a leader of men, who identified himself with those who looked up to him. My dad is extremely wealthy, but unique amongst rulers, he is an ordinary man. That is part of what makes him so unique- He is an ordinary man- a down to earth man, who in his personal life upheld the best ideals of what monarchy is supposed to stand for.

The tragedy of my dad is this: He is a great prince, but he is a poor administrator. Isn't it interesting, though, in the midst of revolution, as a result of his high ideals, his passionate love for God and for his country, he is not the most hated Czar in history? Here, in the chaotic state that Russia is in, he is still perhaps the most beloved Czar? Historians write of Peter the Great, but does anyone love him? People admire the accomplishments of Catherine the Great, and of Alexander II, but do they love them? The answer is "NO." My dad stands apart, because his legacy as a czar is closely tied up with the legacy of who he is as a man.

Keep in mind that my dad has been persecuted, and slandered because he was Czar! In the end his title caused himself, his beloved wife, and his children to be put under arrest and held captive. A worse fate I cannot imagine. Now you wish to put him on trial? Please. Where is the trial for our captors, the godless Bolsheviks? I predict that time will reveal them to be far less virtuous than my dad, so good luck with that.